

Message Text

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11

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 H-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IGA-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /070 R

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NEA/P - MR. VAN ORDER (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

----- 017503

R 012059Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 155339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: YARMOUK RIVER DEVELOPMENT: CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS

REF: (A) AMMAN 4085; (B) AMMAN 2679; (C) TEL AVIV 2618

1. THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR PRE-QUALIFYING POTENTIAL U.S.
CONSULTING FIRMS GOES BEYOND THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PHASE
AND REQUIRES PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR DESIGN, TENDER AND
SPECIFICATION WRITING, CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION, AND
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE. THIS METHOD OF PRO-
CEEDING IS BASED SOLELY ON AGREEMENT BY ALL CONCERNED
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THAT, IF POSSIBLE, THE SAME ENGINEERING CONSULTANT SHOULD

DO ALL PHASES OF THE TOTAL PROJECT, FOR TECHNICAL CONTINUITY, BUT MORE IMPORTANT, TO AVOID GREAT LOSSES OF PROJECT TIME BY A FRAGMENTED APPROACH BETWEEN FEASIBILITY AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR OTHER PHASES OF THE PROJECT. THE USE OF THIS METHOD DOES NOT IN ANY WAY IMPLY THAT DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PROCEED BEYOND THE FEASIBILITY STUDY OR THAT THE U.S., WHICH WILL LOAN FINANCE THE STUDY, HAS MADE DECISIONS TO FINANCE LATER PHASES WHICH MIGHT FOLLOW.

2. WE AGREE THAT THE WATER RIGHTS ISSUES CANNOT BE ADDRESSED INTELLIGENTLY UNTIL THE FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED. TO FACILITATE UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE ISSUES, WE INTEND UNDERTAKE IN-HOUSE STUDY OF THE WATER RIGHTS QUESTION PARALLEL WITH THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. WILL ADVISE EMBASSY OF OUR PLANS AND SCOPE OF WORK OF SUCH A STUDY PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.

3. WE CONCUR IN AMMAN'S SUGGESTIONS IN PARAS 1-4 REF (A). HOWEVER, DESPITE OUR AGREEMENT THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF WATER RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE BROACHED WITH THE ISRAELIS AT THIS TIME, WE ARE STILL FACED WITH THE PROBLEM THAT WHEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE PUBLIC THERE MAY WELL BE OFFICIAL ISRAELI REACTION, AND THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO APPROACH ISRAELIS BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT'S PUBLICATION IN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTION.

4. FOR TEL AVIV: DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SOME CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS BEFOREHAND IS NECESSARY, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF ISRAELI SENSITIVITIES REFLECTED IN REF (C). EMBASSY TEL AVIV SHOULD THEREFORE INFORM GOI AT MEDIUM LEVEL AND WITHOUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS THAT ADVERTISEMENT WILL SHORTLY BE APPEARING IN COMMERCE-BUSINESS DAILY IN U.S. FOR CONTRACTOR TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR POSSIBLE DAM ON YARMOUK. AID IS HELPING GOJ CONTRACT WITH FIRM FOR THIS STUDY AND IS HELPING FUND IT. IT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE 18 MONTHS. UNTIL THEN, FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT, ITS CHARACTER IF FEASIBLE, AND NATURE AND EXTENT OF ISSUES IT MIGHT RAISE CANNOT BE PREDICTED. WE RECOGNIZE
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THAT ISRAELIS ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER, AND WANTED THEM TO KNOW ABOUT PROJECT AND PARTICULARLY TO UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY A FEASIBILITY STUDY IS INVOLVED AT THIS POINT. IF ISRAELIS RAISE WATER RIGHTS QUESTION, EMBASSY SHOULD SAY THIS IS ONE OF QUESTIONS THAT CANNOT BE USEFULLY ADDRESSED UNTIL STUDY IS DONE.

5. FOR TEL AVIV FYI. WE PLAN TO PLACE PRE-QUALIFICATION

ADVERTISEMENT WEEK OF JULY 7. SUGGEST EMBASSY SPEAK TO
FMA EARLY IN SAME WEEK.

6. FOR AMMAN: WE ARE PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION THAT
JORDANIANS HAVE GOTTEN SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO PROJECT AND THAT
LATTER WOULD NOT BE CONCERNED BY ADVERTISEMENT. INGERSOLL

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